

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for accessing a subterranean zone, comprising:
forming an entry well from the surface, the entry well having a substantially vertical portion;
forming a drainage well extending from the entry well to a subterranean zone, the drainage well comprising at least one slanted portion;
forming an articulated well extending from the entry well to the subterranean zone, the articulated well extending from the entry well to intersect ~~intersecting~~ the drainage well at a junction proximate the subterranean zone; and
forming a drainage pattern through the articulated well, the drainage pattern coupled to the junction and operable to conduct fluid from the subterranean zone to the junction.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising forming an enlarged cavity in the drainage well proximate the subterranean zone.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising inserting a guide tube bundle into the entry well and forming one or more of the drainage well or the articulated well using the guide tube bundle.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
forming a second drainage well from the entry well to the subterranean zone, the second drainage well comprising at least one slanted portion; and

forming a second articulated well from the entry well to the subterranean zone, the second articulated well intersecting the second drainage well at a second junction proximate the subterranean zone,

wherein the drainage wells are radially spaced approximately equally around the entry well.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

forming a second drainage well from the entry well to the subterranean zone, the second drainage well comprising at least one slanted portion; and

forming a second articulated well from the entry well to the subterranean zone, the second articulated well intersecting the second drainage well at a second junction proximate the subterranean zone,

wherein the articulated wells are radially spaced approximately equally around the entry well.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

forming a second drainage well from the entry well to the subterranean zone, the second drainage well comprising at least one slanted portion;

forming a second articulated well from the entry well to the subterranean zone, the second articulated well intersecting the second drainage well at a second junction proximate the subterranean zone.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 6, further comprising:

forming a third drainage well from the entry well to the subterranean zone, the third drainage well comprising at least one slanted portion;

forming a third articulated well from the entry well to the subterranean zone, the third articulated well intersecting the third drainage well at a third junction proximate the subterranean zone.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein forming the drainage pattern comprises forming a main well bore and a plurality of lateral well bores extending from the main well bore.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 9, wherein the lateral wells are configured to drain an area of the subterranean zone of at least 640 acres.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising removing resources from the subterranean zone through the drainage pattern to the surface.

12. (Currently amended) A system for accessing a subterranean zone from an entry well, comprising:

an entry well extending from the surface, the entry well having a substantially vertical portion;

a drainage well extending from the entry well to a subterranean zone, the drainage well comprising at least one slanted portion;

an articulated well extending from the entry well to the subterranean zone, the articulated well extending from the entry well to intersect ~~intersecting~~ the drainage well at a junction proximate the subterranean zone;

an inlet of a downhole pumping unit residing in the junction; and

a drainage pattern coupled to the junction and operable to conduct fluid from the subterranean zone to the junction.

13. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 12, further comprising an enlarged cavity formed in the drainage well proximate the subterranean zone.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 12, further comprising a guide tube bundle inserted into the entry well for forming one or more of the drainage well or the articulated well.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 12, further comprising:
a second drainage well extending from the entry well to the subterranean zone, the second drainage well comprising at least one slanted portion; and
a second articulated well intersecting the drainage well at a second junction proximate the subterranean zone,
wherein the drainage wells are radially spaced approximately equally around the entry well.

16. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 12, further comprising:
a second drainage well extending from the entry well to the subterranean zone, the second drainage well comprising at least one slanted portion; and
a second articulated well intersecting the drainage well at a second junction proximate the subterranean zone,
wherein the articulated wells are radially spaced approximately equally around the entry well.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 12, further comprising:
a second drainage well extending from the entry well to the subterranean zone, the second drainage well comprising at least one slanted portion; and
a second articulated well intersecting the drainage well at a second junction proximate the subterranean zone.

18. (Original) The system of Claim 17, further comprising:
a third drainage well from the entry well to the subterranean zone, the third drainage well comprising at least one slanted portion;
a third articulated well from the entry well to the subterranean zone, the third articulated well intersecting the third drainage well at a third junction proximate the subterranean zone.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Original) The system of Claim 12, wherein the drainage pattern comprises a main well bore and a plurality of lateral well bores extending from the main well bore.

21. (Original) The system of Claim 20, wherein the lateral wells are configured to drain an area of the subterranean zone of at least 640 acres.

22. (Currently amended) A method for accessing a subterranean zone from an entry well, comprising:

forming an entry well from the surface, the entry well having a substantially vertical portion;

forming a drainage well extending from the entry well to a subterranean zone, the drainage well comprising at least one slanted portion;

forming an enlarged cavity in the drainage well proximate the subterranean zone;

forming an articulated well extending from the entry well to the subterranean zone, the articulated well extending from the entry well to intersect ~~intersecting~~ the enlarged cavity of the drainage well at a junction proximate the subterranean zone; and

forming a drainage pattern through the articulated well, the drainage pattern coupled to the junction and operable to conduct fluid from the subterranean zone to the junction, the drainage pattern extending from the junction into the target zone and comprises a set of lateral wells extending from a main well bore.

23. (Currently amended) A method for accessing a subterranean zone, comprising:
forming an entry well from the surface;
forming a drainage well extending from the entry well to a subterranean zone;
forming an articulated well extending from the entry well to the subterranean zone, the articulated well extending from the entry well to intersect ~~intersecting~~ the drainage well at a junction proximate the subterranean zone; and
forming a drainage bore through the articulated well, the drainage bore coupled to the junction and operable to conduct fluid from the subterranean zone to the junction.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 23, further comprising forming an enlarged cavity in the drainage well proximate the subterranean zone.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 23, further comprising:
forming a second drainage well from the entry well to the subterranean zone; and
forming a second articulated well from the entry well to the subterranean zone, the second articulated well intersecting the second drainage well at a second junction proximate the subterranean zone,
wherein the drainage wells are radially spaced approximately equally around the entry well

26. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 23, further comprising:
forming a second drainage well from the entry well to the subterranean zone;
forming a second articulated well from the entry well to the subterranean zone, the second articulated well intersecting the second drainage well at a second junction proximate the subterranean zone.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 23, further comprising removing resources from the subterranean zone through the drainage pattern to the surface.